

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before line 1, insert the following heading and paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/241,127, filed February 1, 1999, now pending.

On page 3, amend lines 2-14 to read as follows:

In order to provide a multi layer laminate structure, having an air-permeable, highly elastic sheet, using fusion adhesives, the present invention ~~provides an~~ uses adhesive ~~skein which consists of~~ skeins of a thermoplastic material that is elastic at room temperature. The configuration of the adhesive skeins forms a latticework which permits elastic stretching under tensile loading, and restoration of the adhesive skein configuration when tension is released.

According to the present invention, the adhesive skeins can be advantageously applied by means of a printing process. For this normal printing processes are suitable,

such as intaglio printing, flexoprinting, or screen printing. The adhesive skeins are applied in lattice fashion on one, or on both, layers of material to be laminated. After the lattice-shaped applkcation, the strips are placed adjacent to one another and glued using thermoplastic adhesive. Here, for example, a heated intaglio printer can be used, whose intaglio cylinder is engraved in such a way that a lattice-shaped, waffle-like application results on the batting material strip. The same holds true for the flexoprinting or screen printing processes. After the lattice-shaped application, the strips are placed adjacent to one on the other and glued using the thermoplastic adhesive.

On page 5, amend lines 3-6 to read as follows:

The adhesive can be applied using multiple nozzles, so that ~~strips~~ strands are formed perpendicular to a direction of movement of the material strips to be laminated. A waffle-shaped or lattice-type application, or a rectangular structure, can result from nozzles that move correspondingly opposite each other.

On page 8, amend lines 5-14 to read as follows:

Figure 1 shows two strips of batting 1, 2, of which ~~one~~
strip 2 is coated ~~beneath batting strip 2~~ using heated
intaglio printing (not shown) with a configuration of
adhesive strands or skeins 3. The adhesive skeins have a
thickness of about 0.1 to 1.5 mm, with a width of batting
material strip 1, 2 of about 50 mm. As can be seen in Fig.
1, the ~~batting material~~ adhesive skeins are laid so that
they run in sinusoid curves. At their vertices 4, each
adjacent pair of them overlap or touch in a mirror symmetric
configuration, thus producing a waffle-shaped configuration
5. If tension is exerted in transverse direction Q on the
flat-shaped article which consists of the adhesive skeins
and the two batting material strips 1, 2, then the adhesive
skeins elongate and pull apart. However, since they consist
of ~~thermoplasts~~ thermoplastics that are elastic at room
temperature, restoration occurs after the tensile loading
ceases, due to the flexible properties of the adhesive
configuration.

On page 9, lines 1-19 and page 10, lines 1-2, amend
these lines to read as follows:

According to Fig. 2, a procedure is provided in which two batting material skeins 1, 2 are produced by a conveyor belt. These are advanced through the apparatus by means of deflection sheaves 11, 12. By means of two working rollers 13, 14, the two strips 1, 2 are brought together. Several nozzles 15 are placed transverse to the direction of the strip. With the aid of these nozzles 15, an adhesive skein ~~16 is~~ skeins 16 are applied directly from above into the gap between the two strips 1, 2 that have been brought together. The two strips 1, 2 are then compressed before the adhesive cools, to assure bonding.

The enlarged depiction in the lower part of Fig. 2 shows that adhesive skeins are present, which in cross section, appear as circles 16 in each instance. In each case, the adhesive is applied as hot-melt in a heated liquid state, which in the course of the procedure that follows, becomes an elastic skein. Using these skeins, multi-layer, elastic flat-shaped articles can be produced. These consist of at least two strips made of porous fiber material, especially non-woven sheets made of polyethylene, polypropylene or other polyolefins that can be brought together, producing a highly elastic flat-shaped article.

Using the above-named procedure, flat-shaped articles that are "breathable" can be produced. These are especially required for hygienic products such as panty liners, diapers, incontinence aids and the like. Through appropriate adjustments, the batten thickness and absorption capacity can each be greatly controlled, while the elasticity is ensured by the special middle layer. Also, these products can be manufactured at high speed, since heated printing cylinders are known by which a hot-melt ~~thermoplast~~ thermoplastic can be readily and rapidly applied. These operate at great rotational speeds.